



TFW

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2618

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Junichi YOSHIZAWA	)	Group Art Unit: 2664
	)	
Application No.: 09/917,919	)	Examiner: SHAH, Chirag G.
	)	
Filed: July 31, 2001	)	
	)	
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING	)	Confirmation No.: 2102
APPARATUS AND	)	
COMMUNICATION FUNCTION	)	
EXPANSION METHOD	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In a restriction requirement mailed October 17, 2005, having a period for reply extending through November 17, 2005, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I, claims 1-14 and 27, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to an information processing apparatus comprising centralized switching; and Group II, claims 15-26, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to an information processing apparatus having a switching unit and a connecting unit for connecting and communicating with an expansion device.

Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I, claims 1-14 and 27, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to an information processing apparatus comprising centralized switching.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 14, 2005

By: Anthony Yehly - Reg. No. 53,232  
for Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744